

VZCZCXYZ0015
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBU #3164 3621926
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 281926Z DEC 05
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2939
INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE 5228
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE 1256
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE 0795
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ DEC 3858
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE 1734
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE 5175
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE 0690
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE 4815
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 003164

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/27/2015
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AR](#)
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA AND CHILE SIGN ACCORD FOR A NEW COMBINED
PEACEKEEPING FORCE

REF: A. BUENOS AIRES 3145
[B.](#) BUENOS AIRES 3091
[C.](#) BUENOS AIRES 2988

Classified By: DCM HUGO LLORENS FOR REASONS 1.4(B)and(D)

[1.](#) (U) New Argentine Defense Minister Nilda Garre and her Chilean counterpart Jaime Ravinet signed an agreement December 27 in Buenos Aires to create a combined peacekeeping force to participate in United Nations missions, which is planned to debut in Haiti as early as August 2006.

[2.](#) (U) The concept and planning for the combined operational force was initiated under former Argentine Defense Minister Jose Pampuro and Minister Ravinet and, according to the reports, is the first of its kind in the region. The binational force will have a combined command and staff made up of six officers from each country and, beginning in 2007, will have rotating headquarters between the two countries every two years. Still to be worked out is the number of troops that will comprise the unit. When not deployed or on training, the unit's personnel will maintain normal duties with their respective national units.

[3.](#) (C) Comment: In her December 22 meeting with the Ambassador (Ref A), Garre stressed her desire for a modern and professional military, with a mission focus on peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance. This agreement with Chile is a positive step at a time of some concern regarding the new Minister's ideological affinities and ties to Venezuelan President Chavez. Garre's contacts with her Chilean counterparts should be encouraged. Post does not want to read too much into this agreement -- it was, after all, not a Garre initiative -- but it does signal her interest in maintaining close ties to a modern, pro-U.S. institution. Post will continue to engage Garre and her ministry and move forward on the common aspects of our bilateral mil-mil agenda

[4.](#) (U) Reftels available at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/wha/buenosaires>.< /a>
GUTIERREZ